

EXPLORE!

Book with confidence



NEW

Active Turkey - Private Tour

TURKEY - TRIP CODE PTMAT

DISCOVERY

Why book this trip?

This active trip to Turkey is a wonderful way to explore the Mediterranean coastline, charming villages and impressive mountains of the Lycian coast. The trip is based entirely out of the traditional harbour town of Kas, widely renowned as one of Turkey's best diving spots.

- **Kekova Bay** - Sea kayak to the sunken city of Kekova and the village of Simena overlooked by a medieval castle
- **Xanthos** - Canoe down the river to Patara Beach
- **Taurus Mountains** - Cycle and walk among the tree covered foothills of these majestic mountains, discovering ancient ruins and rural village life



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 7
Lunch: 3



TRIP STAFF
Activity Guide(s)
Boat Crew
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



TRANSPORT
Bicycle
Boat
Car



ACCOMMODATION
7 nights
comfortable hotel



TRIP PACE:
Moderate

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Kas

Arrive in Kas, your base for a week of active adventures. Located around three hours from Dalaman, Kas is a beautiful port town on the Turkish Riviera, with whitewashed buildings and a backdrop of steep hills meeting the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

You will be met on arrival at Dalaman International Airport (airport code DLM) by a transfer driver, and set off on the approximately three hour journey to your hotel in Kas. There are no activities planned today, so feel free to arrive in Dalaman at any time. For those booking their own flights, you will just need to let us know your flight details no later than two weeks prior to departure, in order to be met on arrival.

There are a large number of evening flights into Dalaman Airport, so depending on your arrival time a local representative in Kas will come and meet you at the hotel either tonight or tomorrow morning, to go through your itinerary in detail and answer any questions you may have. If you arrive in the evening to your hotel, a message will be left for you with information and a meeting time for the next morning.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hideaway Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Relaxing gulet boat trip of the bays around Kas

After a leisurely start this morning, walk down to the harbour to board a wooden gulet boat for a ride along Turkey's Turquoise Coast and a day of pure relaxation.

The gulet is hand-built in teak and pine, with a spacious and partly shaded foredeck and comfortable indoor and outdoor lounge areas. Cruising through the calm bays around Kas, stop to swim in the clear, warm waters of the pleasant bays and rocky coves. You may wish to bring some snorkelling gear to look for ancient amphora (vases) lying on the seabed, as well as marine life. In the early afternoon the crew cook up a delicious barbecue lunch before cruising back to Kas.

This boat trip is shared with other passengers, usually between 20-30 people in total.

It's important to note that this itinerary is flexible and can change for operational reasons and weather conditions. For example, if, at the time of your booking, this boat trip on Day 2 has no availability, we will simply make reservations for a different day and shuffle the itinerary around a little. The beauty of staying centrally in Kas for the whole week means that we can make these changes with very little impact to the trip. Our local representative in Kas will go through any of these changes with you upon arrival.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hideaway Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

DAY 3 - Hike in the foothills of the Taurus Mountains

Today you have a choice of three self-guided hikes in the area, with a driver on hand to take you to the start point of your hike and pick you up from the end. Detailed hiking notes will be given to you in country, with paths being easy to follow and taking in a variety of scenery from ancient cities to pretty villages and, of course, epic coastal views.

The first option takes you back to Kas from the ancient city of Phellos, with a taxi transfer taking you to the summit of Mount Felen where the walk begins. Nearby are the Lycian ruins of Phellos with spectacular views to the coast. It's a steady descent to the small village of Cukurbag, where you walk

across the plain to the edge of the escarpment and stunning views of Kas. The walk is approximately 11km, with 22m of ascent and 1000m of descent.

Option number two follows the route of the Delikkemer Aqueduct to the ancient city of Patara. Hike across fertile rolling fields and through pine forest, taking in the coastal views before descending to the southern end of Patara Beach for a spot of swimming, or the chance to explore the extensive ruins of ancient Patara, the birthplace of Saint Nicholas. This 10km walk is expected to take around four hours, with 250m ascent and 350m descent.

The final option takes you to Ufukdere, via some of the rugged coastline of one of Turkey's most southerly points. The route offers several opportunities to swim at coves which you will probably have to yourselves (don't forget to bring swimming gear and towel if you want to swim). The route is well marked but there are sections following the sharp rocky coastline where great care is needed. The walk is 10km with 48m Ascent and 380m Descent, and although you will be met at the end and transferred back to Kas, it is possible to shorten the walk to 5km and return to Kas by watertaxi if preferred.

Back in Kas, why not take a traditional Turkish steam bath to soothe the muscles after today's hike.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hideaway Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Canoe down Xanthos River to Patara Beach

Get picked up this morning from your hotel and drive around 1.5hrs to the Xanthos Riverbank. You'll be canoeing with a group of other travellers today, all taking to the water for a four hour canoeing trip down the Xanthos River to Patara beach. The kayaking is suitable for beginners and no previous experience is needed.

Passing through the tranquil and unspoilt rural backwaters, those with keen eyes can spot colourful kingfishers, egrets, grey and squacco herons and terrapins on the riverbanks. Your guides will find a spot on the river bank for a barbeque lunch before continuing on to the beach at Patara, where there is time to relax and swim. The 18 kilometres of golden sand is one of the longest beaches in Turkey and is a protected nesting area for giant loggerhead turtles.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hideaway Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

DAY 5 - Free day with the chance to visit the Greek island of Meis

Today is left free to explore at your own pace. For those with a hankering for culture, Kas is built around the remains of ancient Antiphellos and there are ruins of a Hellenistic theatre, the monumental Lion Tomb and some hillside rock tombs scattered in and around the town.

For something more active there are options to try horse riding, or take to the water as the sea around Kas is home to excellent diving locations that cater to all levels of experience.

Alternatively, join an excursion to the Greek island of Meis. The island is just 2.5 kilometres from the Turkish coast and yet more than 100 kilometres from Rhodes, its nearest Greek neighbour. Kastellorizo is an idyllic seafront town with colourful buildings lining the harbour where yachts and fishing boats dock. The surrounding hills are home to typical Greek whitewashed building with terracotta coloured roofs.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hideaway Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Cycling in the foothills of the Taurus Mountains

After some time to relax yesterday, stretch your legs today with a mountain bike ride in the foothills of the Taurus Mountains.

Today's private excursion sees you take to your bikes with an experienced guide, beginning the cycle after driving a short way out of town to Mt Asas. Follow a mix of on and off-road trails through cedar forests and sleepy villages that dot the region which has changed little over the centuries. The pace is

relaxed and you'll stop along the way at tiny local coffee shops, and also for a picnic lunch to refuel! To make the most of the ride you need to be confident on a bike, the route is primarily downhill, but there are a few hills to test the legs. The distance covered is around 30 kilometres, which takes around three hours including stops.

On the drive back to Kas, stop for a swim at the famous cliff lined Kaputas Beach, a perfect way to cool off after a great bike ride.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hideaway Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

DAY 7 - Sea kayaking in Kekova Bay and visit Simena Castle

Rise early today to enjoy a day of sea kayaking in the tranquil and protected bay of Kekova. It's one of the most scenic areas in Lycia; a set of picturesque islands, bays and small ancient cities. With a guide and a support boat, kayak out on to the calm water, passing over the sunken city of Kekova. Shifting land caused by earthquakes have partly submerged the streets and buildings, which are now visible in the crystal clear waters and there are even steps leading down into the depths of the bay.

The pace is relaxed and no previous experience is necessary - simply enjoy the scenery as you kayak to the picture-postcard village of Simena, whose harbour is dotted with ancient sarcophagi (tombs) and Roman baths and houses that cling to a hillside beneath a medieval castle. It's possible to leave the kayak for a short walk up to the castle where there's a tiny ancient theatre within its walls. Carved from the solid rock, it is a wonderful place to sit and soak up the serene surroundings.

There's the opportunity to have a tasty lunch of meze and grills at a waterside restaurant, before taking to the waters again, paddling through a labyrinth of rocks, passing the shoreline necropolis of Teimiusa to reach Ucagiz. From here, drive back to Kas where the rest of the afternoon is free to relax.

The kayak trip takes around three hours in the water, with additional time for lunch, and will cover approximately eight kilometres



ACCOMMODATION:
Hideaway Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Trip ends in Kas

Your trip ends today, and you will set off on the three hour drive to the airport for your international flight. There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Dalaman Airport (DLM) at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Turkey

Climate

Summers are hot and dry with refreshing sea breezes and clear waters, great for boat trips. It is often cooler on higher ground and in the mountains and can be cold at night, even in the summer. During the shoulder seasons (loosely speaking, before mid-May and after early October), temperatures and rainfall can be erratic, with some temperatures dropping to 8-12 degrees, and other days being bright and sunny up to 25 degrees. Mountain locations will be cooler than on the coast, of course. In the winter, temperatures usually hover between 0 and 10 degrees, but are usually wet, particularly around the coast. The best time for walking in Turkey is mid-May, June and September, with pleasant temperatures and clear blue skies.

| Time difference to GMT | Plugs | Religion | Language |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------|
| +3 | 2 Pin Round | Islam, Christian | Turkish |

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

You have a free day on day five, and there are plenty of activities in and around Kas to suit all budgets and interests, or simply choose to relax at the beach. A selection of optional activities, which have all been safety checked by Explore, are listed below to help you to budget. Our local supplier has an office in Kas, and they can help you book any of these. Alternatively, there are also plenty of agencies in Kas where you can book any other excursion that interests you.

PADI Discover Scuba Dive for beginners - half day (around four hours), starting at 9.30am, €29 per person including full equipment hire.

Single Scuba Dive for certified divers €26 per person including full equipment hire.

Full day course is €75 per person including full equipment hire.

With reliable visibility and approximately 30 sites nearby, Kas has the reputation of being one of the best places to dive in Turkey. Dives can be taken in the morning or afternoon. A variety of fish may be seen including grouper, barracuda and amberjack and maybe even the odd submerged ancient ruin.

Full day trip to Kastellorizo on the island of Meis, starting at 10am, £23 per person.

Morning or afternoon half day horse riding trips are available, £35 per person.

Please note that all optional excursions listed above are subject to change and availability and they may not all be possible to offer at all times of year - for example, the diving season is typically late May to late October/early November.

Clothing

The long Turkish summer can be hot, though much of the Mediterranean coastline is freshened by sea breezes. In the spring and autumn, a warmer sweater or fleece is recommended for the evenings, as is lightweight rainwear and long trousers.

Footwear

Well broken in walking boots with good grip and ankle support, plus sandals or trainers for relaxing. A pair of shoes that can get wet but will stay on, are required for sea kayaking and canoeing e.g. trekking sandals. Plastic sandals are useful for protecting your feet against sea urchins on the rocks when swimming.

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack.

Equipment

Bring a water bottle, torch, strong sunscreen, sunhat, sunglasses and insect repellent.

For all water based activities bring along appropriate swimwear as well as a towel. It is also recommended to wear light waterproof shoes for getting in and out of boats.

Sea kayaking and canoeing:

Kayak/canoe, paddle and life jacket will be provided.

For canoeing and sea kayaking the use of a life jacket is mandatory. Lifejackets will also be available on the gulet for anyone requiring one.

Walking/trekking:

Comfortable walking shoes will be required. Bring a small backpack to carry any essentials including a water bottle and snacks. A walking pole may also be handy as some terrain can be rocky and uneven underfoot.

Cycling:

Mountain bike, helmet, gloves and water bottle will be provided. For cycling the use of a helmet is mandatory. You may wish to bring cycling shorts. We strongly recommend that you bring your own helmet with you to ensure a perfect fit.

Snorkelling:

You may wish to bring a snorkel along with you for the boat trip.

Scuba diving:

In order to take part in this optional activity you will need to bring your official diving certificate and dive logbook. Equipment is available to hire locally.

Tipping

Local crew

Although voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. With that in mind, we have provided some guidelines below which are, of course, discretionary.

Guides - £5pp

Drivers - £2-4pp depending on the length of the journey

Restaurants - 10-12% if the service is good

Hotel staff - £15 for the week

Turkey

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

| Lunch price | Dinner price | Beer price | Water price |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| £7 | £13 | £2.7 | £1 |

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Turkish Lira.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Major foreign currencies such as US Dollars, £Sterling and Euros can easily be changed. We advise against travelling with Travellers Cheques as commission rates are high. Other currencies can be exchanged in larger cities. We advise you to change money in Turkey as rates tend to be better.

Where To Exchange

Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

ATMs are widely available throughout Turkey. To avoid large queues at the airport exchanges, you may wish to xchange some lira before arriving.

Credit Card Acceptance

In major restaurants.

Travellers Cheques

Not recommended.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bicycle, Boat, Car

Accommodation notes

Our base for the week is the Hideaway Hotel, conveniently situated just a five minute walk uphill from the centre of Kas. It has a roof terrace bar/restaurant with views over the Mediterranean, an outdoor swimming pool, and Wi-Fi is available. Bedrooms have balconies but not a sea view. Upgrades to sea view rooms are available on request.

All the rooms have traditional decor and are air-conditioned with Wi-Fi, telephone and en suite bathroom with a toilet, shower and hairdryer.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Turkey: British nationals travelling to Turkey for tourism or business purposes do not require a visa for visits of up to 90 days. Other nationalities should check with your local embassy or online at <https://www.evisa.gov.tr> for up to date information.

Australian, Canadian and USA nationals can get an e-Visa online through the official Republic of Turkey e-Visa website: <https://www.evisa.gov.tr>. An e-Visa costs \$35 (plus \$1.05 service fee) and you can pay by credit or debit card. If you use this option, you should apply at least one week before travel and can do so up to 3 months in advance. In case of technical problems at the Turkish port of entry, carry a printed copy of your e-Visa or keep an electronic copy on a smartphone or other device to show at immigration.

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and

depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Included activities

Kas is the ideal location to make the most out of exploring the town, relaxing at the hotel and participating in the wide variety of activities:

Canoeing:

Canoeing down the Xanthos River is thoroughly enjoyable. After a safety briefing, climb into the two-man canoes and begin the journey downstream to Patara Beach accompanied by a local canoe guide. This is a group trip, so you may also be joined by other people. The river winds gently towards the sea through lovely rural countryside. En route there's the opportunity to stop at a local mud bath. There's also a stop made on the riverbank for a barbecue lunch. The journey finishes just as the river widens and joins the sea at Patara Beach, where there is the opportunity to go swimming. This activity is suitable for beginners, but an ability to swim is nonetheless essential.

Walking/trekking:

Walk through the stunning Taurus Mountain scenery and experience Turkish rural life, cedar forests, cool mountain streams and small local villages. There are several different options to suit a variety of difficulties, and full route information will be provided to you in country. If you don't want to walk - that's fine too! You can take the opportunity to have another free day in Kas, with plenty to do.

Sea kayaking:

Sea kayaking around the bay of Kekova is exhilarating and fun. The scenery is stunning and the water is the turquoise colour that gives the Turquoise Coast its name. After a safety briefing the double and single kayaks are launched for a practice, before paddling towards the rocky island of Kekova accompanied by a local kayak guide. Kayak beside the famous ruins of the sunken city of Kekova, to the small village of Simena overlooked by a medieval castle and on to Ucagiz, the pretty seaside village where the journey started from. In total the time spent kayaking is approximately three hours, but there's also a stop made with time for a swim, lunch in a local restaurant and a climb up to the castle. The activity is accompanied by a safety boat. Departure from the hotel is early, as it's best to get into the waters early so it's not crowded with other bigger vessels. A packed breakfast and coffee to go will be provided by the hotel. This activity is suitable for beginners, but an ability to swim is nonetheless essential.

Cycling:

This is another day, spent almost completely off the beaten track, taking bicycles and a vehicle with a trailer up into the foothills of the Taurus Mountains. After a safety briefing from your private guide, and being acquainting with the mountain bikes that have front suspension, the cycling begins along small roads and some unmade tracks between small villages and through forest paths. The cycling is mainly downhill although there is the occasional steep uphill section. The aim is to cycle 30 kilometres, which takes about three hours. The route may vary slightly depending on the time of year, weather and make up of the group. A stop for a picnic lunch will be made and when the opportunity arises, a glass of Turkish tea in a tea house. There are some sections of rough forest tracks, but difficult sections can be walked. This cycling activity is graded as Moderate and it's essential that you are able to ride a bike in order to participate.

Our local supplier reserves the right to change around the order of the activities depending on availability of guides and activities at the time of your booking.

Ability to swim

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

Turkey

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Additional Information



Tour Staff

Unlike our group tours our private journeys do not have a Tour Leader. However, you are still in safe hands as we work closely with our expert local suppliers on the planning and organisation of your holiday to ensure that you have a fantastic time. You'll be met on arrival at the airport by a transfer driver, and in Kas you will meet one of our local

representatives who will go through your holiday details and answer any questions you may have. Your activity guides for the cycling, kayaking and canoeing are professional, licenced guides, with excellent knowledge in their field of expertise. They will really help to bring the destination to life. You will have all the information that you need to explore and there is always the reassurance that you have someone on hand with our 24/7 emergency contact number.

Reviews



PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE



AIRPORT
TRANSFERS